

### REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 1-3, 10, 16, and 18-20. Favorable action is requested for new claim 21.

Claims 4-9, 11-15, and 17 have been allowed. Minor amendments have been made to certain of the claims to address minor formal matters. Subject matter recited as "optional" in claim 4 has been deleted from that claim and added dependent claim 21. It is submitted that the claims are allowable for at least the reasons noted in the Official Action.

The title was asserted to be not descriptive and it was indicated that a new title should be directed to a particle separator "with radially separated sets of circumferentially spaced mechanical separators". It is respectfully submitted that a reference to "radially separated sets of circumferentially spaced mechanical separators" would create the misleading impression that such sets of separators are characteristic of all aspects of the claimed invention. A title that is submitted to appropriately describe the invention is provided.

Claims 1-3, 10, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to address the grounds for rejection.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,045,688 to *Ruottu et al.* It is asserted in the Official Action that the vanes 51 in *Ruottu et al.* divert gas flow from the "z" direction to the "r" direction. However, *Ruottu et al.* in fact discloses that air is caused to flow tangentially as the result of the vanes. Tangential flow is different than radial flow. Thus, *Ruottu et al.* does not

disclose a combination of steps including diverting the gas to flow substantially in the r-direction (radial direction), while keeping the gas circumferentially distributed in r  $\phi$ -planes as recited in claim 1. Claims 2-3 depend from claim 1 and are not anticipated by *Ruottu et al.* for at least the same reason as claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable. Allowance is cordially urged.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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